

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM NATO

SUBJ: CDU ATTITUDE TOWARDS MBFR--FRG EFFORTS TO
MAINTAIN BIPARTISAN APPROACH

REF: BONN 01104 (DTG 211730Z JAN 76)

IN VIEW OF GERMAN SENSITIVITIES ON THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS,
ADDRESSEES WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF
THE FRG GOVTS EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN A BIPARTISAN ATTITUDE ON THE
NEGOTIATIONS GIVEN BY FRG REP BEHRENDTS TO US DEPREP ON JAN 27.

A. FRG FOREIGN MINISTER IS AT PAINS TO KEEP MBFR OUT OF THE
FORTHCOMING FRG BUNDESTAG ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND, AS A MEANS
OF DOING THIS, TO MAINTAIN BIPARTISAN BUNDESTAG SUPPORT FOR
THE NEGOTIATIONS FROM THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION AS WELL AS THE
SPD/FDP COALITION PARTIES. HE HAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS
EFFECT TO THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE.

B. BEHRENDTS BELIEVES THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND
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THAT THERE ARE GOOD PROSPECTS THAT BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR THE

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE.

C. ALTHOUGH CDU DEFENSE SPOKESMAN WOERNER MADE CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT THE OPTION 3 PROPOSAL IN THE JAN 15 BUNDESTAG DEFENSE DEBATE (REFTEL), DURING THE SAME DEBATE, A CSU DEPUTY SPEAKING IN THE NAME OF BOTH THE CDU AND CSU FACTIONS APPROVED THE OPTION 3 PROPOSAL.

D. IN MID-JANUARY, BEHRENDT HIMSELF BRIEFED THE ARMS CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE BUNDESTAG HEADED BY SPD DEPUTY WISCHNEWSKI. BOTH CDU DEPUTY MERTES AND OTHER CDU REPRESENTATIVES INDICATED CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AND ALSO FOR THE OPTION 3 PROPOSAL.

E. ON THE BASIS OF THESE STATEMENTS IN COMMITTEE, COMMITTEE SUB-CHAIRMAN WISCHNEWSKI, IN SPEAKING WITH MEMBERS OF A VISITING SOVIET PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION, STRESSED TO THEM THAT BOTH THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AND THE WESTERN POSITION ON THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE SUPPORTED BY ALL BUNDESTAG PARTIES INCLUDING THE BUNDESTAG CSU/CDU. RESOR

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